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ABSTRACT

Recommendations for educational policy are summarized in this report of the Indiana Governor's Select Advisory Commission for Primary and Secondary Education. The recommendations fall within four broad categories: (1) identifying basic educational outcomes; (2) providing a sound financial base; (3) providing incentives for the achievement of efficient, professional, productive staff; and (4) recognizing the need for extension of learning opportunities. A brief history of the Advisory Commission and a list of members conclude this pamphlet. (KH)

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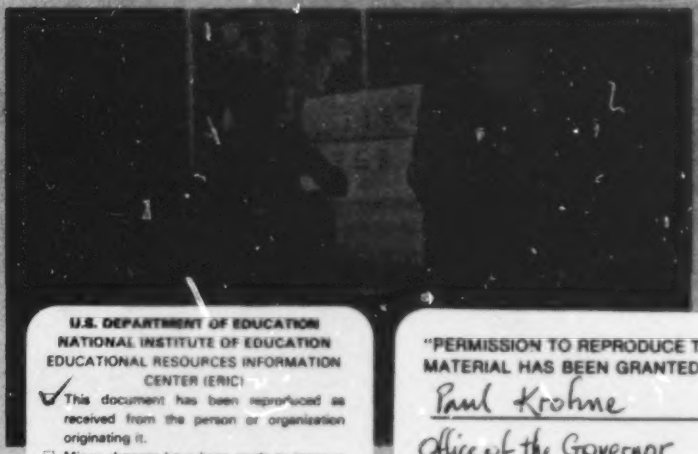
Final Report of the Governor's Select Advisory Commission for Primary and Secondary Education



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Summary of Recommendations

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Final Report of the Governor's Select Advisory Commission for Primary and Secondary Education

Summary of Recommendations

November 1984

State of Indiana
Robert D. Orr, Governor

The Honorable Robert D. Orr
Governor of the State of Indiana
Room 206, State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Orr:

I am pleased to herewith transmit the 1984 recommendations of the Governor's Select Advisory Commission for Primary and Secondary Education.

As you know, the Commission has worked diligently throughout the last 2½ years and has grappled with a number of difficult and complex issues designed to fulfill the basic mandate of the Commission: that of reviewing and evaluating the current system of public education with a goal of providing the highest quality of educational opportunity.

In this 1984 report to you, the Commission has identified four broad areas, each of which contain several separate recommendations needing either executive or legislative attention. Those four broad areas are:

— identifying the basic educational outcomes,

— providing a sound financial base,

— providing incentives for the achievement of efficient, professional, productive staff, and

— recognizing the need for extension of learning opportunities.

Since the second report, the Commission has also reviewed in depth the rule changes brought about by the action of the State's Teacher Training and Licensing Commission changing recertification requirements, reviewed actions taken by teacher training institutions in upgrading standards, and reviewed state and national examples of innovation. In prior reports other aspects of the statute creating this Commission were dealt with and reported.

It is my feeling that the following set of recommendations, if enacted, will help us in our quest for educational excellence in the Indiana public school system. Still, much work needs to be done if we are to be successful in our efforts for a better Indiana. This report, hopefully, will contribute to the dialogue necessary to achieve our long term goals for improving the quality of our schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hanni

Dr. Robert Hanni
Chairman

Summary Recommendations

The Commission believes that the State must lead in planning its educational system. In development of educational policy, consensus must be reached regarding the basic mission of public schools. It is recognized that a relationship exists between the public's understanding of the school's mission and their degree of support.

In its final year of work, the Commission has prepared recommendations in four areas of emphasis. The two prior reports have provided recommendations after examination of other areas. The recommendations for this final report are as follows:

Issue: Basic Educational Outcomes

1. The Commission recognizes the importance of basic subject matter and recommends that increased emphasis be placed on language arts, science and mathematics. It also recognizes the need for education of the total child through appropriate emphasis on the arts, physical fitness, health, career and vocational education, and foreign languages.
2. The Commission supports statewide competency testing and recommends that tests be used for maximum benefit for education of all students, evaluating student learning, identifying remediation needs, quality teaching and a school's effectiveness.
3. It is recommended that means be established to insure that all required textbooks be provided students at the various grade levels. It is further recommended that if funds are to be provided locally, they not be derived from the general fund of the school corporation.
4. The Commission recommends that the Department of Education continuously analyze and revise curricula and develop linkages between various disciplines and give appropriate support for the implementation of programs focusing on the development of higher order thinking and reasoning skills.
5. It is recommended that a school improvement fund be established to provide incentives for implementing and for rewarding those individual school programs which can demonstrate improved performance.
6. It is recommended that school officials of the various

school corporations continue in their efforts to facilitate and secure effective public input into the educational policy-making process.

Issue: The Financing of School

1. It is recommended that a planned approach to refine the existing formula be implemented, over a period of five years, which would result in a funding system with the desired elements. This approach might start with special treatment for a relatively small number of school corporations with either low spending levels or high tax rates, and the number could be expanded each year.
2. The Commission recommends that school management teams continuously evaluate areas where merging of services and personnel might reduce the number of professional non-teaching positions and make budgeted funds more cost-effective.
3. It is recommended that the General Assembly immediately find ways to increase funding for the bottom three to six school corporations having the least capacity to raise funds.
4. It is further recommended that mechanisms be developed to foster the expansion of educational cooperatives and that the General Assembly provide the means for them to be financed.
5. It is recommended that local school boards be given the opportunity to raise additional local funds from property or income taxes.
6. Appropriate state funding should be provided to continue existing programs and services and to permit necessary expansion of gifted and talented programs.
7. It is recommended that funding be provided on a continuing basis for Summer Institutes for gifted and talented students at selected state colleges and universities.
8. The North Carolina Residential School for gifted and talented students appears to work well in North Carolina but a similar school is not recommended for the State of Indiana at this time.
9. It is recommended that the present statute be changed to require all school corporations, regardless of size, to publish only general categories of their annual report of receipts and expenditures.

Issue: Personnel Efficiency and Productivity for Achieving Excellence

1. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider career plans and reward systems for professional personnel, based upon experiences of other states, and determine which features of those plans best meet the needs and goals of quality education in Indiana.
2. It is recommended that an incentive fund (which might be supplemented locally by private funds) be established which will be administered by the Department of Education to recognize and provide monetary support for teachers' classroom activities that are identified as being exemplary in educational value and in need of small amounts of money for implementation.
3. It is recommended that the Department of Education develop Leadership Training Programs using models proven most effective in other states with a focus on the refinement of skills in management, instructional improvement and performance evaluation of personnel.
4. It is recommended that local school officials explore every possibility for contracting services from non-public, not-for-profit and for-profit entities which would enhance cost effectiveness and improve quality.
5. It is recommended that a strong effort be made to improve the implementation of P.L. 217, and improve the application and function of the law. If this is not possible, it is recommended that the law be repealed. A "meet and confer" statute could be an alternative.
6. The Commission commends the State Board of Education for the current study of the nature of discipline problems which exist in the schools and recommends that it establish a technical assistance program that would enable school personnel to more effectively deal with discipline issues.

Issue: Extensions of Learning Opportunities

1. Since the IDE is currently revising identification guidelines for use in the schools, it is recommended that personnel involved with the identification of gifted and talented children refer to these guidelines to assure the use of systematic procedures throughout the State.
2. It is recommended that there be more coordination of

resources by the Indiana Department of Education for the benefit of gifted and talented students and that close working relationships be fostered among the public and private colleges and the public schools.

3. It is recommended that all school corporations be urged to assist all personnel in creating an awareness of the characteristics of gifted children, implementing appropriate instructional activities for gifted children within the classroom setting and to locate and develop challenging individualized instructional activities for gifted and talented children.

4. It is recommended that there be state level responsibility for physical fitness education by designating a coordinator for curriculum development and promotion of physical education.

5. It is recommended that a comprehensive study be made of vocational education to determine whether the present system meets current and projected educational needs and if it is appropriately funded. The study should be completed by a group outside of vocational education.

6. It is recommended that school administrators place greater emphasis on smoothing school-to-work transitions which will increase the potential employability of students completing the vocational education programs.

John Dewey, a noted educator, once said "Education is a social process. . .education is growth. . .education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." In preparing students for lifetime learning, structural and philosophical changes in the educational system will be necessary.

Problems faced by an educational system include an assessment of how best to control inputs and outputs, allocate resources, adapt to the environment, and obtain maximum levels of student achievement and personnel satisfaction.

History of the Governor's Select Advisory Commission for Primary and Secondary Education

In April, 1982, Governor Robert D. Orr appointed nine distinguished citizens to serve on a commission to study,

review and evaluate the primary and secondary education system in Indiana. The commission was asked to identify barriers which keep the system from attaining high quality education for Indiana students, and to make recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature which would contribute to removal of these barriers.

Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton named three members of the Senate to the Commission. Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Roberts Dailey named three members of the House of Representatives to the Commission.

To chair the group, Governor Orr named Dr. Robert Hanni, Superintendent of the Twin Lakes School Corporation.* Mrs. Marjorie Meyer of Indianapolis was named as Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

The other members of the Commission are:

Mr. William H. Calloway
Director, Student Financial Aids
Indiana State University at Evansville
Evansville, Indiana

Mrs. Joyce Davis (resigned January 1984)
Elkhart, Indiana

Mrs. Emily Fair (Deceased)
Princeton, Indiana

Mr. John E. Friend
Director, Intermural Athletics
and Recreation
Purdue University-Calumet Campus
Hammond, Indiana

The Honorable Thomas D. Hession
Member, Indiana State Senate
Shelbyville, Indiana

The Honorable Lloyd Taylor
Member, Indiana House of
Representatives
South Bend, Indiana

Mrs. Eleanor Laffoon
Lafayette, Indiana

The Honorable Dennis Neary
Member, Indiana State Senate
Michigan City, Indiana

The Honorable Marilyn Schultz
Member, Indiana House of
Representatives
Bloomington, Indiana

The Honorable John Sinks
Member, Indiana State Senate
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Mrs. Marilyn Sowers
Richmond, Indiana

The Honorable Philip T. Warner
Member, Indiana House of
Representatives
Goshen, Indiana

(1 position vacant)

*Dr. Hanni is currently President of the State and Savings Bank, Monticello, Indiana.

In the first report issued in November 1982 the Commission made several recommendations, including:

- The state should develop loan and grant programs to reduce teacher shortages in specific disciplines, particularly science and mathematics.
- The state should establish and fund a computer training and learning program for students and teachers.
- The state should provide leadership and financial support for development and expansion of programs for gifted and talented students.

Addressing these proposals, the 1983 General Assembly created two programs designed to alleviate the current shortage of mathematics and science teachers, established the Computer Consortium for Computer and high Technology Education to provide guidance and direction in the area of computer education in Indiana's schools, and increased the state's annual appropriation for gifted and talented students from $186,000 to $1 million.

In the second report issued in November 1983, the Commission made additional recommendations including:

- The state should restructure the governance system for education.
- The state should provide funds for the implementation of incentive programs to encourage excellent performance of teachers.

- School corporations should place high priority on time on task, do further research on project Primetime, increase the number of school days, mandate kindergarten programs, provide supplemental education for successful work and career planning, establish a task force to examine remedial education in Indiana, and provide funding for summer school programs which include remediation and enrichment courses of study.
- There should be an on-going effort to establish more rigorous standards for persons preparing to be teachers, strengthen college and university teacher education programs, strengthen the working relationships between higher education and elementary and secondary education.
- Schools should use computerized career counseling and define the role of counselors.

In addressing these proposals, the 1984 General Assembly mandated kindergarten in all school corporations, allocated funds for a state-wide competency testing and remediation program, funded summer school programs through additional appropriations, reorganized the State Board of Education and required the Teacher Training and Licensing Commission to establish a system for renewing a teaching license that does not require a graduate degree.

The Commission was assisted in its work by the following staff:

Dr. Bob F. Jones, Professor of Agriculture Economics, Purdue University, Staff Director

Dr. William R. Wilkerson, Professor, Department of School Administration, Indiana University

Dr. Phillip Peak, Professor Emeritus, School of Education, Indiana University, Consultant

Dr. Merle T. Strom, Professor Emeritus, Education Administration and Supervision, Ball State University, Consultant

Mrs. Jean Bush, Ed.S., Vocational Education, Purdue University, Research Assistant

Mrs. Carol Savitsky, M.S. Elementary Education, Purdue University, Research Assistant

Mrs. Edith Wainscott, Secretary

Ms. Patt Edwards, Purdue University, Secretary

Mrs. Pat Shoaf, Purdue University, Secretary